

Filed for intro on 02/22/95  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

House No. HB1472  
By Chumney

AN ACT to create a model program to develop youth leadership.

WHEREAS, Memphis Youth Leadership (MYL) is a community based leadership program for middle school-aged girls in the Memphis and Shelby county area; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this worthy program is to produce trained, educated young women who are capable of providing effective leadership to their community; and

WHEREAS, through their participation in Memphis Youth Leadership, these young women develop leadership skills, become aware of the cultural and racial issues affecting their community, learn the importance of volunteerism, gain a knowledge of community resources and enhance their personal growth; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should embrace these exemplary ideals and precepts by funding a pilot program for Memphis Youth Leadership; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a model youth leadership program in Memphis-Shelby county. The program will bring together a diverse group of middle school-aged girls who are not the recognized leaders in their schools and communities, but who will benefit from the

opportunity to develop their leadership skills. The goal of the program is to produce trained, educated young women who are capable of providing effective leadership to their community. These young women will develop leadership skills, become aware of the cultural and racial issues affecting their community, learn the importance of volunteerism and gain a knowledge of community resources.

SECTION 2. The objectives of the youth leadership program cover four (4) major areas: leadership skills, cultural and racial issues, volunteerism and community resources. The program shall be an eight (8) month leadership program. There will be twenty to twenty-five (20-25) participants each year. Once the girls complete the program they will be recruited and encouraged to serve as youth advisors and volunteers for future participants. By participating in a program that meets the stated objectives, the participants will develop the leadership skills necessary to become productive citizens, gain a knowledge of the community needs and resources, and develop improved self-esteem and caring for others.

SECTION 3. A key component of the program is a volunteer learning project. This program is structured to allow for maximum youth involvement in the selection of the project. The program participants will work as a group to identify community needs, develop their own objectives for a volunteer learning project, and select that project. They will be given a list of potential projects developed by the local advisory committee. The participants will be engaged in volunteer learning projects on both an individual and group basis. Each participant will select and participate in an individual project for four (4) hours per month. In addition, the participants will select a group project. Approximately seven hundred (700) hours of direct community service will be provided on an individual basis. In addition, three hundred (300) hours will be contributed through a group project.

SECTION 4. Each girl will be matched with a volunteer adult female mentor at the beginning of the program. Mentors will be asked to meet with the girls individually on a monthly basis. This relationship is designed to foster positive role model experiences for the participants.

SECTION 5. The success of the youth leadership program will be measured by its ability to meet the stated program objectives. The evaluation will include pre- and post-tests and specific evaluations of each session, both formative and substantive. The local advisory committee will monitor the evaluation process. Reports shall be submitted by the program director to the state department of education on a quarterly basis.

SECTION 6. Funding for the program shall be from local sources, available grants and contributions, and state funds appropriated or allocated for that purpose.

SECTION 7. The program director shall submit an annual report to the commissioner of education, copies of which shall be made available to members of the general assembly.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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